

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for electronically creating a contract between a buyer and a seller in an online transaction by means of a shopping token that contains a plurality of agreement terms.
2. The method of claim 1 comprising:
  - creating an XML file; and
  - responsive to the addition of a buyer digital signature and a seller digital signature to the XML file, saving the XML file as the shopping token.
3. The method of claim 2 further comprising:
  - adding a seller's personal information to the XML file;
  - adding a buyer's personal information to the XML file;
  - adding information regarding a good to the XML file; and
  - adding a plurality of terms to the XML file.
4. The method of claim 2 further comprising:
  - presenting the terms to the buyer and the seller;
  - determining whether the buyer and the seller agree with the terms; and
  - responsive to the determination that the buyer and seller agree with the terms, adding a buyer digital signature and a seller digital signature to the XML file to create a shopping token.
5. The method of claim 4 further comprising:
  - responsive to the determination that the buyer and seller do not agree with the terms, accepting a modification to the terms.

6. The method of claim 2 wherein the shopping token is created after the buyer is aware of the delivery date for the good.
7. The method of claim 2 wherein the shopping token may be configured so that the shopping token is not modifiable by the buyer or the seller.
8. The method of claim 2 wherein the shopping token is stored on a third party computer and is accessible by the buyer and the seller.
9. The method of claim 2 wherein the shopping token contains warranty information for the good.
10. The method of claim 2 wherein the shopping token is used for price protection for the good.
11. The method of claim 2 wherein the shopping token is used for price promotion for the good.
12. The method of claim 2 wherein the shopping token is used by a potential buyer to analyze a seller's history.
13. A program product for electronically creating a contract between a buyer and a seller in an online transaction by means of a shopping token that contains a plurality of agreement terms.
14. The program product of claim 13 comprising:
  - a computer-usable medium;
  - wherein the computer usable medium comprises instructions for a computer to perform steps comprising:
    - instructions for creating an XML file; and
    - responsive to the addition of a buyer digital signature and a seller digital signature to the XML file, instructions for saving the XML file as the shopping token.
15. The program product of claim 14 further comprising:

instructions for adding a seller's personal information to the XML file;  
instructions for adding a buyer's personal information to the XML file;  
instructions for adding information regarding a good to the XML file; and  
instructions for adding a plurality of terms to the XML file.

16. The program product of claim 15 further comprising:

instructions for presenting the terms to the buyer and the seller;  
instructions for determining whether the buyer and the seller agree with the terms;  
and  
responsive to the determination that the buyer and seller agree with the terms,  
instructions for adding a buyer digital signature and a seller digital signature to the XML file  
to create a shopping token.

17. The program product of claim 16 further comprising:

responsive to the determination that the buyer and seller do not agree with the terms,  
instructions for accepting a modification to the terms.

18. The program product of claim 14 wherein the shopping token is created after the buyer is  
aware of the delivery date for the good.

19. The program product of claim 14 wherein the shopping token may be configured so that the  
shopping token is not modifiable by the buyer or the seller.

20. The program product of claim 14 wherein the shopping token is stored on a third party  
computer and is accessible by the buyer and the seller.

21. The program product of claim 14 wherein the shopping token contains warranty information  
for the good.

22. The program product of claim 14 wherein the shopping token is used for price protection for the good.
23. The program product of claim 14 wherein the shopping token is used for price promotion for the good.
24. The program product of claim 14 wherein the shopping token is used by a potential buyer to analyze a seller's history.
25. A shopping token that contains a plurality of agreement terms between a buyer and a seller.
26. The shopping token of claim 25 created by steps comprising:
  - creating an XML file; and
  - responsive to the addition of a buyer digital signature and a seller digital signature to the XML file, saving the XML file as the shopping token.
27. The shopping token of claim 26 wherein the steps further comprise:
  - adding a seller's personal information to the XML file;
  - adding a buyer's personal information to the XML file;
  - adding information regarding a good to the XML file; and
  - adding a plurality of terms to the XML file.
28. The method of claim 2 further comprising:
  - presenting the terms to the buyer and the seller;
  - determining whether the buyer and the seller agree with the terms; and
  - responsive to the determination that the buyer and seller agree with the terms, adding a buyer digital signature and a seller digital signature to the XML file to create a shopping token.

29. The method of claim 4 further comprising:

responsive to the determination that the buyer and seller do not agree with the terms,  
accepting a modification to the terms.

30. The shopping token of claim 26 wherein the shopping token is created after the buyer is aware of the delivery date for the good.

31. The shopping token of claim 26 wherein the shopping token may be configured so that the shopping token is not modifiable by the buyer or the seller.

32. The shopping token of claim 26 wherein the shopping token is stored on a third party computer and is accessible by the buyer and the seller.

33. The shopping token of claim 26 wherein the shopping token contains warranty information for the good.

34. The shopping token of claim 26 wherein the shopping token is used for price protection for the good.

35. The shopping token of claim 26 wherein the shopping token is used for price promotion for the good.

36. The shopping token of claim 26 wherein the shopping token is used by a potential buyer to analyze a seller's history.

37. An apparatus for creating a shopping token that contains a plurality of agreement terms between a buyer and a seller comprising:

means for creating an XML file;

means for adding a seller's personal information to the XML file;

means for adding a buyer's personal information to the XML file;

means for adding information regarding a good to the XML file;

means for adding a plurality of terms to the XML file;

means for presenting the terms to the buyer and the seller;

means for determining whether the buyer and the seller agree with the terms; and

responsive to the determination that the buyer and seller agree with the terms, means for adding a buyer digital signature and a seller digital signature to the XML file to create a shopping token;

responsive to the determination that the buyer and seller do not agree with the terms, means for accepting a modification to the terms;

wherein the shopping token is created after the buyer is aware of the delivery date for the good;

wherein the shopping token may be configured so that the shopping token is not modifiable by the buyer or the seller; and

wherein the shopping token is stored on a third party computer and is accessible by the buyer and the seller.

38. The apparatus of claim 37 wherein the shopping token contains warranty information for the good.

39. The apparatus of claim 37 wherein the shopping token is used for price protection for the good.

40. The apparatus of claim 37 wherein the shopping token is used for price promotion for the good.

41. The apparatus of claim 37 wherein the shopping token is used by a potential buyer to analyze a seller's history.